SHIPMAN-RECOMMENDED NEW POLICY

6172.5P

INSTRUCTION

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

The Colchester Board of Education (the "Board") believes that parents should be knowledgeable about the education that the Colchester Public Schools (the "District") provides to enrolled students. The Board believes that parents are most knowledgeable when they have regular communication with teachers. Therefore, it is the policy of the Board to encourage parent-teacher communication. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing procedures in furtherance of this policy. Such actions to improve parental involvement may include methods to engage parents in the planning and improvement of school programs and to increase support to parents working at home with their children on learning activities.

The procedures developed in furtherance of this policy may include strategies such as monthly newsletters, regular contact with parents, and the use of technology to allow parents to check on their children's assignments and students to receive assistance if needed.

Such procedures shall require the District to conduct two flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year. In addition, the procedures shall require the District to:

A. offer parents the option of attending parent-teacher conferences by telephonic, video, or other conferencing platform,
B. conduct one parent-teacher conference, in addition to the two flexible parent-teacher conferences described above, during periods when the District provides remote learning for more than three consecutive weeks, and one additional parent-teacher conference every six months thereafter for the duration of such period of remote learning (for purposes of this policy, and in accordance with applicable law, "remote learning" means instruction by means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a remote learning model), and
C. request from each student's parent the name and contact information of an emergency contact person who may be contacted if the student's parent cannot be reached to schedule a parent-teacher conference required during periods of District-provided remote learning.

On or after January 1, 2022, the procedures must also require a teacher conducting a

parent-teacher conference that is required in section (B) Remote Instruction above to provide a copy of the document, to be developed by the Department of Education, to provide information concerning educational, safety, mental health, and food insecurity resources and programs available for students and their families, to the parent prior to the parent-teacher conference. If, after making three attempts, a teacher is unable to make contact with a student's parent in order to schedule a parent-teacher conference required in section (B) Remote Instruction above, the teacher shall report such inability to the school principal or designee. Such principal or designee shall contact any emergency contact person designated by the student's parent to ascertain such student's and family's health and safety.

Legal reference:

Connecticut General Statutes:

Public Act No. 21-46, "An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety, and Education of Children"
June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-2, Section 390.
§ 10-220(c) Duties of Boards of Education
§ 10-221(f) Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

POLICY ADOPTED: December 14, 2021